

This Just In ...

A Bulletin for News of Political Prisoners and POWs

Issue 10

FEBRUARY 1995

COORDINATORS: Betty & Herman Liveright - 103 Bartlett Ave. - Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201 - (413) 499-1120

JAMILA LEVI of the Western PA Comm to Free MUMIA ABU-JAMAL writes that he visited Mumia on 1/18/95 in supermax SCI Greene in Waynesburg, PA. where Mumia was moved on 1/13/95. Conditions: 1) Utter isolation; no view across block; silence prevails; electronic monitoring means every sound is monitored. 2) All doors electronically controlled., with guards at control-monitoring stations. 3) Allowed only a two hour visit once a week. Visits non-contact. During visit handcuffs are shackled to a belt around the waist. The stool he sits on for visits is shackled to the floor. 4) Prisoners only have TV and radio if they buy them. Levi urges those who can to write to Mumia.

ΨΨΨΨ

RICHARD WILLIAMS writes from Lompoc, CA: "Lompoc experienced the third assault on a guard in the last year--in the form of scalding water dropped on him. The attitude of the guards has generally been smart ass to nasty so they are starting to reap what they sow." *** "I can't say violence in general is up but we have numerous beatings & stabbings of prisoners to prisoners." *** "The only word I've gotten, and that from TJI, has been that Oscar, Tom & Jimmy Barrett are in Florence and that Ray may be going. .. Outside information is nil." *** "Strength to you brothers who are there and to those about to be sent. Not many people talk about it but it is the last stop for many, being sent to Florence. It's a lie that anyone will 'work their way out' in the BOP's supposed program. Florence and the many state control units serve one function & that is to bury certain fellow-prisoners and/or totally break their spirits. It is double jeopardy but as we all know one will not get justice from the courts or the government, and to think one will is foolish and dangerous." *** I send my greetings and love

to all my locked-down comrades."
"Venceremos!"

ΨΨΨΨ

PHIL AFRICA writes from Rockview State Prison, PA: "Rumblin the unjust 30-100 yr. sentence givin me and my 8 'MOVE 9' bros and sis's. Presently awaiting a hearing on PCRA hearing set for Feb. 17th." *** Rules: "No hooded clothing allowed, no black, navy blue, tan or green clothing allowed." *** "I'm still makin sure rads have clean bedding and clothes by workin in prison laundry." *** "Workin as a boxin trainer as added way to stay iin shape as well as school others in self-defense tactics. Have study sessions on the teachings of John Africa whenever possible." *** "Top aim for energy put into making folksprotest against the death penalty and to ...support and fight for the life of Bro Mumia and all others facin murder at the hands of the rotten,corrupt, oppressive murderin system!" *** "My greetins to Jaan, Leonard P., Mark C., Larry G., Norma Jean C., Sundiata, Sekou O., and all others who dare to struggle & dare to win. Yo Mumia, we love you Bro!" *** Later: "A recent update. On the day that the new governor for Penna. was sworn into office the MOVE organization took part in a demonstration for Mumia and against the death penalty at the state's capital. A vacant house next to one of our family's homes was firebombed and when firemen arrived they were reluctant to put out the fire till pressured to do so by MOVE supporters. Our family began to get calls from people sayin stuff like,"Is it still hot? Is it hot enuff for Mumia?' It is clear it is the cops who are behind it all." *** "It is very serious times ahead for all who struggle for justice and for Mumia." *** "Ona MOVE!"

ΨΨΨΨ

RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR, still in Marion, IL, writes: "[Janet] Reno was in Florence on Jan. 10 for the official ADX ribbon cutting ceremony--widely covered by the national media. At 3 o'clock in the morning on Jan. 11 a small army of guards entered this cell block to roust us. They were dressed to the 9's in the latest security garb: Kevlar helmets, Plexiglas face shields, flack jackets, camos, steel-toed boots, gas masks, clubs, stun guns--and a gizmo that looked like a modified flame-thrower (probably a gas gun)....They take on the aura of cartoon characters. Then again, I stayed on my toes because they do maim and kill on occasion."

*** "They took 40 total [to Florence], leaving behind a small number of prisoners including me. After a rather intense body search, including x-rays for some, all were chained, black-boxed, and placed on a bus. The security was severe including a lot of Illinois state police. ...They took a straight shot north to Scott AFB, ending up in a thick soup of fog. They waited many long frustrating hours for the BOP plane to land--which it never did. They had to abort the entire mission. They retraced their steps returning all the prisoners to Marion and back to the same cells they'd left approximately 12 hours earlier (sans their property which had already been removed)." *** "For all their clamoring about security, those in charge failed to seriously consider one of the most fundamental aspects of any military-designed operation--weather!" *** "'I expect they'll try this transfer again some time this week. Why didn't I go? Looking around at who's left in this block and some of the other blocks I think they'll move me with a smaller group of so-called 'high profile' prisoners.'" *** "Meanwhile I found a 1970 edition of 'Catch 22' to while away some time, remain in a holding pattern..."

ΨΨΨΨ

ANA LUCIA GELABERT writes from Marlin, TX: "I am still collecting affidavits for the law-suit challenging the U.S. embargo on Cuba. We've moved for a hearing on class certification. If we get certified as a class I have confidence that the embargo will soon be history."

This Just In ...

*** "I am extremely concerned about the rising tide of fascism in the U.S., not just with the all-republikkon kongress, but with well-trained fascist militias, armed to the teeth, now confirmed in at least 30 states. And right-wing terrorism [against] women's clinics in Boston, Virginia, Florida..." *** "I ... see overconfidence by many who believe, 'it will never happen here.' Yes, it will, unless we stop it now." *** "In solidarity."

ΨΨΨΨ

SANYIKA SHAKUR (aka Kody Scott) writes from Pelican Bay, CA: "Parole date is still 9/29/95." *** "Caught talking in law library--restricted for 10 days from attending." *** "The Madrid case, challenging the cruel & unusual treatment of prisoners here, was ruled on by the kourt. We can expect no relief. Altho' the judge ruled that 'Pelican Bay SHU stretched the limits that most humans can stand,' he refused to shut it down. Nevertheless we soldier on here in defiance. The so-called Prisoners Bill of Rights has been repealed for over 6 months now. We expect them any day to sweep thru here & confiscate the little property we are allowed." *** "Sundiata's letter was returned--can't communicate directly." *** "Maroon, the implacable, glad to hear you are well." *** "Re-Build!" *** "Continuing writing on my new books & have been hired as screen play consultant for the movie of the first book [*Monster: Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*]" *** "My daughter (14) is the first communist governor of her class." According to an article in *The Sacramento Bee*, "When he gets out of Pelican Bay, Scott said he hopes to offer himself as a reformed 'street combatant' willing to work with others to stop the nationwide spread of L.A. street gangs....'I have a tremendous debt to the community,' said Scott."

ΨΨΨΨ

BILL DUNNE writes from USP Leavenworth where he's been for 7 months: "I'm still eligible for parole in 2001 when I'll have 22 yrs. in. I'm exploring further get-out-of-jail litigation. I got shot down with my last effort on the U.S. 7th

3

Circuit's theory that I'm not entitled to relief 'cause the gov't didn't have to make the errors it did." *** "I'm slammed again. The swine have me on investigation status for writing comments like 'slave labor in this product' on the product liability cards put in stuff that slaves are required to work on in UNICOR....The swine can't say what rule my expanding the factual content of UNICOR literature may have violated and so are using investigation status to exact the tax for such buck & seg time w/out the inconvenience of due process." *** "No organized activity in the SHU." *** I'm devoting more time to some of the same ol' same ol': reading & writing." *** "I'm plenty healthy (no thanks to the diet!) but think the eyes are starting to go." "The future holds promise!"

ΨΨΨΨ

JUAN (PAPO) SEGARRA writes from Atlanta, GA: "Pending application for parole in '96" *** "There has been an institutional lockdown in effect since Jan. 15. Lockdown 24X7, shower once every 4 days, no clean laundry, no phone, no stamps no visit (except attorneys)." *** "Daughter Luriza due to have her 1st baby in late May. Will be my 4th grandchild. I'm getting old..."

ΨΨΨΨ

RAMONA AFRICA, Minister of Communication for the MOVE Organization writes from Philadelphia that she has been addressing groups around the country about Mumia and the MOVE 9 prisoners. She's been to Philadelphia, Virginia, Rutgers University, Richmond, VA, San Francisco State, Santa Cruz, CA and Oakland, CA. *** "Nov. 3rd I was in federal court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit for oral argument on my appeal of the U.S. District Court's decision in my civil suit on the May 13th bombing of me and my family. The lower court decided that I had *no* grounds to sue the government for Bombing...it was *not* excessive force to bomb us...officials did what any 'reasonable' person would have done. I appealed that ruling to the 3rd circuit Court of Appeals..."The three judge panel was very hostile..[I wasn't] allowed to say anything." ***

This Just In ...

"[They said] things like the cops were 'trying to make a *lawful* arrest pursuant to *legally* issued warrants....any fair-minded person can see that those cops came out to Osage Ave.. to *kill* MOVE members, not to merely arrest us--they could have arrested us anytime...."

ΨΨΨΨ

IMARA SEKOU/WELDON WIGGINS writes from Pelican Bay State Prison, CA: "I'm still in punitive isolation as is everyone who refuses to submit to the state's debriefing program which requires that you become an informant to gain release to the G.P. once they've identified you as a militant or progressive." *** "Madrid v. Goyez class action has been decided but the state has not released a detailed account of the court's ruling. "[See Sanyika's statement]." *** "My latest lawsuits which claim that there exists no valid penological justification for my placement in punitive isolation because I've committed no gang-related crime or rule violation to give reason for this type of isolation. [The suits have] gained the court's attention. The court dismissed and/or denied the states action to dismiss it. I will keep you-all informed of its progress." *** "Remember those who have gone before...Couldn't stop, had to win, wouldn't stop, till the end...Can you do less!...George Jackson, Malcolm X, As-sata...Build to Win!"

ΨΨΨΨ

MAROON (RUSSELL SHOATS) writes from SCI Greene in Waynesburg, PA: "Moved on 1/19/95." *** "Serving 2 natural life sentences, 19 1/2 to 39, 5 to 10, 3 1/2 to 7 and 1 to 2--all running 'bowlegged' (consecutive)." *** "I was transferred to the new 'super max' in Greene County, PA. On arrival I was placed in 'G' building which is where the death penalty prisoners are kept. Mumia Abu-Jamal is in 'A' pod, I'm in 'B' pod. There are 4 pods (A,B,C,& D). I haven't, as yet, been able to speak to Mumia. (I may never get that chance because each pod is extremely isolated! I was reviewed by the administration and when I informed them that I had been misconduct-free in over 5 years, and since I'm in the most secure prison in the state,

'When will I be released to population:' They responded 'Never!' So, everyone in this building is sentenced to death. Some to death by lethal injection, me to 'Death by Regulation.' *** "This institution has (I believe) 4 buildings like I'm in. At least 2 of them will be housing death sentences. This will leave close to 200 cells to house a lot of other prisoners who step too far 'out of line.' I'm sure a number of prisoners who are presently in population or the holes will be coming here in the near future." *** "My love and regards to all the comrades... 'The Spirit of the people is stronger than this technology!"

ΨΨΨΨ

JAMES BARRETT writes from Florence: He is appreciative of TJI and is concerned that it will continue well into the future... Jim also writes: "So far as we know (which ain't saying much, given the nature of the beast), we are still only 45 or so here. Most of us are truly glad to be away from Marion and those hateful prisoncrats. We are trying hard to ease into and, eventually, out of the Florence 'program,' whatever it is. It's unexpectedly difficult, though. In Marion the prisoncrats wouldn't talk with us--they'd just give us what we had coming. Here in Florence, we get a lot of double and triple talk--and can't seem to get what we supposedly have coming. It's weird. And problems are unnecessarily being made for us prisoners." *** "[The prisoncrats] have daily 'classes' on how to control and manipulate prisoners." *** "I hope they are not mistaking our easy-going spirits for blind subservience. They only 'work' here--we convicts have been banished to live here..." *** "I sure would prefer it to be a peaceful banishment--but it's not up to the prisoners." *** "Well, maybe things will mellow out." *** "Take good care, my friends."

ΨΨΨΨ

AHMED IBN MUHAMMAD aka Claud Gray writes from USP Marion: "I am from New Jersey and was arrested in 1981 with several members of The New World of Islam, which is a group of Muslim followers of the teachings of

This Just In ...

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad. We believe in the need for the Black man in America to have an independent nation of his own." *** "I have been in the federal system since 1981 and am serving RICO conviction. However, we are not racketeers; we are POWs who were arrested for re-appropriating funds that were earned and not paid to our forefathers after more than 300 years of chattel slavery." *** "I max out in Sept. 1997 and have a 20-year consecutive sentence to do in New Jersey. I have a 2254 habeas corpus filed in the U.S. District Court at Newark, NJ, before Judge Maryanne Trump Barry. My issues are ineffective assistance of counsel and exculpatory evidence Docket Number CV86-3775. I have been litigating pro se, and cannot afford an attorney..." *** "I read the Interview Booklets you did with my homeboy and comrade, Sundiata."

ΨΨΨΨ

RICHARD MAFUNDI LAKE writes from William Donaldson C.F., Bessemer, AL: "Case now pending before the U.S. Appeals Court (Atlanta, GA)." *** "Twice on each shift there is a prisoner roster count where prisoners have to give name and number--prisoners are awakened throughout the night." *** "Still trying to organize lifers' group and Afrikan education and cultural project. Recently trying to organize chess club. The prison custodians oppose all organizing efforts." *** "Helping to organize conference in Birmingham, AL, for April 8, '95 (The Imprisonment of America: A Human Catastrophe) and planning an autobiography." *** "Daughter (Assata Shakur Lake) preparing to graduate from high school and attend college. At the moment mother in intensive care--haven't learned details." *** "I wish to extend my love and solidarity to all the POWs/PPs and all the good people." *** "I want all the POWs/PPs to send information or representatives to the conference in Birmingham for distribution about their cases: Committee for Prisoner Support in Birmingham, PO Box 1211152, Birmingham, AL 35202-2152."

ΨΨΨΨ

CHARLES (CHUCKIE) AFRICA writes from SCI Graterford, PA: "Still pushing for a single cell; they are denying even though it's on my record (from a doctor in Pittsburgh) that I should be in a single cell." *** "Still work out at the boxing gym. Been real busy in legal matters w/my case but still work out." ***

"Teaching John African teachings and staying active with anything progressive..." *** "Keep up the struggle and continue to unify all efforts wherever we can. Resist." *** "I read what Maroon wrote: I think I will start doing some practicing on these handball courts (smile) here." *** "A salute to all those still standing...Ona MOVE."

ΨΨΨΨ

SILVIA BARALDINI writes from FCI Danbury, CT where she has been since April 1994: "I am awaiting a response from the United States government on a third request for repatriation to Italy as per Strasbourg convention." *** "Due to faulty and shoddily done innovations, we have a serious problem with the hot water. Showers are limited to a few hours a day. Last month a large number of women did not eat for 3 days to protest this situation." *** Job: "Leisure library clerk." *** Activity: "AIDS education--we have recently formed a group. Our last activity occurred on World AIDS Day, attended by over 150 women. We are also having a cultural club that will bring poets, writers, musicians to the prison. African American poet Jayne Cortez will [be here]." *** "Gotten into computers and enjoying it."

ΨΨΨΨ

LARRY GIDDINGS sends greetings and thanks from Lewisburg, PA and wishes to all a great '95...

ΨΨΨΨ

DR. MUTULU SHAKUR sends greetings from USP Marion: "Have faith in our purpose, for it will sustain us...Unity and self determination by doing what we can will strengthen us in the face of a racist and fascist agenda." *** "Strong Kwanzaa! Stiff Resistance!"

ΨΨΨΨ

This Just In ...

MARK COOK writes from Washington State Reformatory: "I have a habeas action still pending in fed court. The magistrate wrote a report and recommendation that it be dismissed with prejudice. The district judge rejected the R&R. Referred it back to magistrate." *** My last infraction was torn up which means I've had only one infraction in 19 years." *** The state legislature is considering eliminating our family visits which include the conjugal visits. The program has been considered a success for the last 14 years. Recently a prisoner assaulted his wife with a knife during a visit which sparked the legislature." *** "Still working 6 hours a day in the law library and taking 3 hours of college courses a day." *** "We are still developing our dispute resolution center which we will call IMP (Inside Mediation Program)." *** "My sister was up to visit recently. She and her daughter attended the last benefit for Norma Jean Croy, Mumia Abu-Jamal & myself in Seattle. She said there was standing room only when they arrived. The benefit was sponsored by the MCFC (Mark Cook Freedom Committee)." *** "My apologies for providing an incorrect return address. They were pre-printed stick-ons provided by the 'National Wildlife Federation.' Correct address below."

ΨΨΨΨ

ELEGGUA OSUN ELUFE writes from Eastern N.Y. C.F.: "My lawyer and I are appealing my parole denial." *** "The new governor of New York Pataki wants to reinstate the death penalty and change other laws to make things more cruel for prisoners, some of them are taking away the exercise weights program, free postage stamps and T.V.s." *** "I am involved in the P.A.C.E. group, a non-violence workshop. I am waiting to participate in a youth program." *** "I am supporting a group of brothers and sisters in the street who are enlightening prisoners with educational literature." *** "We are a chosen few who have positive morale....Remain strong and keep the torch light. Our destiny is certain."

ΨΨΨΨ

MOHAMAN GEUKA KOTI writes from Comstock, NY: "I am still waiting to hear back from Albany, NY. My counselor said I will be put in for transfer soon. I asked for Greenhaven or Eastern NY State." *** "I just got locked for fighting for my right: when some C.O. told me I can not have my medications with me to take back to my cell. He lied on me, said that I was going to kill him or beat him up..." *** New rule: "The big yard is cut down to one hour; one hour and back to your cell." *** Organized activity: "Islam, Muslim, working with brothers and sisters in the free world." *** After waiting for six months, Mohaman went to Albany Medical College Hospital for eye surgery but the doctor said she wouldn't do it because he can see well in the right eye. *** "I thank all of you who helped me to get the new typewriter (smile). I have a new typewriter (smile)." *** "Much love, all my struggling brothers and sisters. Thank you (smile)."

ΨΨΨΨ

TARIG ELFARES MOHAMED ELHASSAN writes from M.C.C., New York City: "I am a pre-trial inmate." *** "I was put in a solitary cell for one year. Then put in population but separate from my co-defendants." *** "We asked for Islamic teaching; it's been over a month and we have never been granted it." *** Health: "Overweight due to the condition in the solitary cell." *** "Recently they put me in segregation detention unit for requesting a male to pat search me instead of a female." *** "They gave me a ticket for performing my prayers while I was in an attorney's conference."

ΨΨΨΨ

BONNIE KERNES writes from the American Friends Service Committee in Newark, NJ, about a recent conference which set up a Nation Control Unit Project. Bonnie wrote also: "Letters from Ojore Lutalo, Marilyn Buck, Jalil Bottom, Shaka Shakur, Bill Dunne helped the deliberations enormously. " Support groups from many states are working to carry out plans formulated at the meeting. Bonnie can tell you more about what is going on.

ΨΨΨΨ

This Just In ...

LOCATIONS FOR PRISONERS IN THIS BULLETIN:

*** Charles Sims Africa #AM 4975, Box 244, Graterford, PA, 19426-0244

*** William Phillips Africa, "AM 4984, Box A, Bellefonte, PA 16823

*** Ramona Africa, 1630 S. 56th St., Philadelphia, PA 19143

*** Silvia Baraldini, #05125-054, FCI Danbury, Penmore Station, Danbury, CT 06811

*** James Barrett, #10374-016, Box 8500, Florence, CO 81226-8500

*** Mark Cook, #027100 B3-05, Washington State Reformatory POB 777, Monroe, WA 98272-07077

*** Bill Dunne, #10916-086, SHUC-208, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048-1000

*** Tarig Elfares Mohamed Elhassan, #34852-054, M.C.C., 150 Park Row St., New York, NY 10007

*** Eleggua Osun Elufe, #80A692, Box 338, Napanoch, NY 124588-0338

*** Ana Lucia Gelebert, #384484, Box 6000, Marlin, TX 76661

*** Larry Giddings, #10917-086, PO Box 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837

*** Bonnie Kerness, AFSC, 972 Broad St., 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

*** Mohaman Geuka Koti #80-a-0808, Great Meadows C.F., PO Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821

*** Richard Mafundi Lake #79972, William Donaldson C.F., 100 Warrior Lane #H-84, Bessermer, AL 35023-7299

*** Jamila Levi, PO Box 10174, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0174

*** Raymond Luc Levasseur #10376-016, U.S.P Marion, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

*** Ahmed Ibn Muhammad (Claud Gray), U.S.P. Marion, PO Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

This Just In ...

*** Juan Segarra Palmer, #15357-077, Box
PMB, Atlanta, GA 30315

*** Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012, U.S.P., PO
Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959

*** Sanyika Shakur (Kody Scott)
#07829, Pelican Bay State Prison, PO Box
7500, Crescent City, CA 95532 C-3-106

*** Russell Shoats (Maroon) #AF-3855, 1040
E. Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA
15370-8090

*** Weldon Wiggins (Imara Shakur) #C-
02859, POB 7500, D-s/D-2/5, Crescent City, CA
95632-7500

*** Richard Williams, #10377-016, 3901 Klein
Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436

ψψψψ